

victim of strong drink. They exist as dark figures on the back ground of every picture of the prosperity or happiness of the State. These too are taken into account. Enlightened, christian civilization, philanthropic statesmanship must ask what shall be done with them? Shall the finest intellects, the most genial spirits of our State, bound by the infrangible fetters of habit, be doomed to perish in a drunkard's grave and the State have no care for them? Such has been the conduct of our State in the past of our history, and thousands now fill untimely graves who well might have said: "No man careth for my soul." Until this day no legislator has had the moral courage, urged to a noble deed by the appeals of widows and orphans, to raise his voice to ask of the State for these victims of untold horrors, these splendid bondsmen of sin, that a cure be provided for them by the suffering State as is provided by the Constitution that it may be done. It even declares that it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to put forth the hands of the State for these, often her valuable and brilliant children, and rescue them from impending ruin and shame by devising means for their restoration. Other States already are engaged in this great work of pity—New York, Massachusetts, *et. al.* have made provision for the rescue of their imperiled children. Shall then these provisions of our Constitution only mark the neglect of this duty, or its own advance beyond the progress of the spirit of the people as seen in the General Assembly.

In how many households of this State are there grinning, gibbering skeletons in the shape of an idiotic or mentally imbecile member. It has been taken for granted that a life so desolate, scarcely a remove from the brute, could have no alleviation of its intensely dreary sadness. Our *eminent* statesmen have ridiculed the idea that one ray of truth, light or love could be made to irradiate that chaotic and darkened understanding. Christian love and natural affection alike, appear to have been paralyzed before the wrecked or misformed mind that was thrown upon its care. Thousands have been,